

SB 862

Daria G. Thompson
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February 17, 2013

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Room 2800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairman Crisco and Chairman Megna; members of the committee,

I am writing to you in support of Bill 862; AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR LUNG CANCER SCREENING. This bill requires health insurance coverage for lung cancer screening tests, in accordance with the recommendations established by the American Lung Association, after consultation with the American Cancer Society.

Lung Cancer is the second leading cause of all deaths in the U.S., and the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. It is the least funded cancer in terms of research dollars per death of all the major cancers, and has a dark and looming stigma associated with it, in that it is considered a self-inflicted disease.

I am a 53 year old registered voter in Haddam, Connecticut. In July 2011, I was diagnosed with Stage 3B Lung Cancer (Non-Small Cell Adenocarcinoma), through a CT scan at Middlesex Hospital. A chest x-ray, also performed at Middlesex Hospital in October 2009, less than two (2) years prior, did not detect the cancer at all. Having spread to both of my lungs, the cancer is now at Stage 4. Needless to say, I am not a candidate for surgery; I have received the maximum amount of radiation, and have been treated with several chemotherapy regimens over the past 19 months. I am now receiving biweekly chemotherapy treatments.

Based on the proposed screening criteria of this bill, I would have been a candidate to receive a low-dose CT scan and my cancer would have been diagnosed at its earliest, most curable stage. At this point in time, I am grateful for my faith and the many blessings that have been bestowed upon me throughout my life. Cancer is a blessing in and of itself, in that it allows me to reprioritize my life. Please grant me this one 'bucket list wish', and do everything in your power to remove the '*stigma*' associated with lung cancer, and pass this life saving bill.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,
Daria G. Thompson